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IRAN:
Majles Sessions

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RESALAT Reports on Majles Sessions

* 28 Nov

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[Text] Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri, and the deputies from Asadabad, Bijar, Abadan, and Damavand and Firuzkuh gave speeches. Then the Majles took up its agenda, and the proceedings are presented below for our esteemed readers.

Mohammad Baqer-Bahrami, Deputy From Asadabad

The existing administrative system is not capable of carrying out the responsibilities assigned to it under the Second Five-Year Plan.

The first pre-agenda speaker was Bahrami, deputy from Asadabad. During his speech he discussed the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: In the sacred government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the indicator and focus for growth for development should be movement in the direction of social justice. Growth and development have no credibility if they make the rich richer while the poor remain poor.

Among the important factors in realizing social justice, he mentioned seeing regional potential, as well as that of the various sectors, and seeing the deprived and lacking areas in the Five-Year Plan and giving importance to agriculture and education and training issues. He said: The matter of taxes is especially important in the Second Five-Year Plan. We believe that if we study the question of taxes with an expert view, unfortunately we will not collect taxes from the nongovernment sectors to an extent that is suitable for the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and appropriate for their incomes.

The deputy from Asadabad discussed the matter of privatization in the country. He said: The inclination in the nongovernment sector to take on responsibilities which the government has is an important matter, and if we do not make provisions for the people to participate, the nongovernment sector will not want to do government work.

If the nongovernment sector does not have the necessary ability, specialized skills and manpower to take on responsibilities assigned to it from the government sector, it will not be successful in carrying out those responsibilities.

He added: Commitment in the nongovernment sector to the principles of the government and the values of the Islamic revolution is one of the factors that will have a great effect in the successful performance of the duties in the government sector and in the acceptance of government sector responsibilities.

Bahrami emphasized making use of the nation's domestic abilities and capacities as much as possible. He said: As long as there are possibilities in our domestic capaabilities, we must not use foreign capacities in the Second Five-Year Plan to build the country.

Protecting the people and the groups associated with values, orthodoxy and revolution, such as those who have sacrificed, the exalted families of martyrs, war veterans, former prisoners of war and the brave combatants and basijis, is a matter that I mention as chief of the Majles Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission. After the approval of the Law for Those Who Have Sacrificed, all government organizations who do not obey this law and act in violation of it are both in violation of religious law and in violation of the law.

He continued: Implementation of the Second Five-Year Plan needs an administrative system that is appropriate for the Five-Year Plan. As one of the least of the experts on the administrative system in the Majles, I say that the existing administrative system is not capable of carrying out the responsibilities assigned to it under the Second Five-Year Plan.

In conclusion, the deputy from Asadabad said that the nation's administrative organizations must be reinforced and that special attention must be given to the matter of management. He said: The municipality of Asadabad is especially deprived. Out of the 300 km of roads in this municipality, on 10 km have asphalt surfaces.

Mohammad 'Ali Moqanian, Deputy From Bijar

The growth of a nation's economy, especially a revolutionary country, requires the creation of correct management.

The next pre-agenda speaker was Moqanian, deputy from Bijar. He offered congratulations on 7 Azar [28 November], Navy Day. He said: Today the enemies of Islam have their swords drawn. Imperialism and the West are lined up against Islam and the Muslims. An example of this is Clinton's meeting with the apostate Rushdie and France's acceptance of the hypocrites.

He then commemorated Mobilization Week. He said: The basij is not just a military force for us which acts on the battlefield of truth versus false as a unified vanguard. The philosophy of the existence of the basij is summarized as a sincere and brave force, a leading and valiant force at this basic point. Wherever Islam, the revolution and the nation are in need of sincere forces, our valiant basij and basijis were, are and will be the first ones to come forward in defense of Islam, the revolution and the nation.

The deputy from Bijar then added: Although our dear Khomeyni was the first basiji in this revolution, and it was also he who glorified Islam as the dominant force over infidelity and atheism, he taught all of us that we should take the basijis as our model, and we should pattern our lives after the sincere basiji's saga of martyrdom, which, in his own words, shook even the heart of martyr-smashing Khomeyni.

Continuing his remarks, Moqanian discussed the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: Although the aforementioned bill with the aforementioned proposals, with the preliminary studies conducted by the various Majles specialist commissions, with its final Majles approval and with the ultimate approval of the Guardian Council, is implementable, it has created concerns in society. An example of this is the recommendation from the Plan and Budget Organization concerning the amendment of part of the labor law. One must ask, why amend the labor law? Let it not go unsaid that a number of insiders in economic affairs have been talking for some time about amending parts of the labor law.

This is not the only solution that has involved officials tampering with laws, applying their own filter and then passing it through the Interests Discernment Council.

The deputy from Bijar then emphasized: The ones making this recommendation must realize that the current inflationary conditions impose the greatest pressure on the oppressed class and especially the workers, and that the only hope for the workers is careful implementation of the current labor law. This was not and is not a futile expectation.

He added: During the revolution the workers were the first to die and were on the front line. They acted on their responsibility, and we must not toy with their destiny on the pretext of amending the labor laws.

Mohammad Sa'id Ansari, Deputy From Abadan

The chief of the Plan and Budget Organization still does not realize that more than half the populous rural areas near the big cities have not been reconstructed.

The next speaker was Ansari, deputy from Abadan. He discussed Mobilization Week and said: I hope that the officials in the nation's executive organizations and in the respected government will give priority in all tasks to the dear basijis, as they have done in the past. I believe and trust that all the nation's officials are thinking and acting as basijis so that we can defend and lead our Islamic nation under the leadership of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i. That is, the basij must come first in our work.

The deputy from Abadan presented statistics and gave a positive evaluation of the performance of the Ministry of Post, Telegraph and Telephone in Abadan. He said: One can mention the reconstruction of the telephone centers in cities such as Abadan, Khorramshahr and Dezful, as well as Abadan's intercity telephone centers. Before the imposed war there were no intercity telephone centers at that center.

He added: Since the year 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] in the province of Khuzestan 103,832 telephone numbers were put into operation in 57 centers, and 84 rural telephone offices were also put into service.

Mr. Ansari also thanked and praised Mr. Shefati, the national airlines manager, the minister of the reconstruction crusade, the manager of school reconstruction in Khuzestan and Abadan's school reconstruction officials for their cooperation and helpful remarks in the reconstruction of Abadan.

Elsewhere in his talk, the deputy from Abadan addressed a question to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic, concerning the reconstruction of Abadan. He said: Respected president of the Islamic republic, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, as the nation's most aware official concerning the war-stricken areas, I ask your excellency, has the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas been completed?

What kind of thinking is this that is prevailing in the Plan and Budget Organization? Why do they think this way? We believe that the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization and its experts who work in relation to the war-stricken areas are opposed to the nation's war-stricken areas. Why don't they look into this matter? He added: They evict our refugees from the camps, towns and dormitories under such deplorable conditions, yet they still aren't giving a single parcel of land to the refugees in the war-stricken cities, and more than 40,000 people have registered for land.

In this same regard, he addressed Mr. Raja'i, chief of the Plan and Budget Organization. He said: Mr. Raja'i, I swear to God, even if it is just for an hour, put yourself and your family in the place of these noble and oppressed war-stricken people, and taste the bitterness of life just for an hour and compare it yourself. Indeed, this is oppression. The chief of the Plan and Budget Organization still doesn't know that more than half the populous rural areas near the big cities such as Abadan, Khorramshahr, Susangerd and Shush have not yet been reconstructed. The other half are under reconstruction. Why hasn't he gone to the war-stricken areas even once? Even if it is only once, get out of Tehran and go to visit the nation's deprived and war-stricken areas. From what perspective do you deal with the reconstruction of these areas? He noted: Mr. president of the republic, my fear is that after five years of sincere service to the refugees, all this government expenditure to rebuild and bring the refugees home has failed.

I have been trying to contact Mr. Zanjani for some time, but he does not give time to the deputies.

He added: Respected president of the republic, respected speaker of the Majles and respected deputies, I regret that in the Second Five-Year Plan the Plan and Budget Organization has not provided for reconstruction. These areas are treated like other cities. I therefore ask you to approve a separate note for the reconstruction of the nation's war-stricken areas in the Second Five-Year Plan.

The deputy from Abadan also remembered the esteemed naval martyrs and their sacrifices in commemoration of Navy Day, and he wished success for Navy commanders and personnel.

Seyyed Ahmad Rasulinezhad, Deputy From Damavand and Firuzkuh

Our people are not informed about the combat record of the executive director of the Voice and Vision organization.

Rasulinezhad, deputy from Damavand, was the final pre-agenda speaker. He mentioned Mobilization Week and commemorated the memory and names of these brave men, and he congratulated all the Shi'ites in the world on the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Fatimeh Zahrah (peace be upon her).

He then said: Following the remarks the speaker of the Majles made previously concerning the report from the Majles Investigation and Interpellation Commission on the performance of the Voice and Vision organization and support of the members of the group that runs this Majles and the nation, and then the limitations in the hasty answer full of insults from the officials of the Voice and Vision organization, it was expected that the gentlemen would take note and be warned and stop doing these unwise, unacceptable and unethical things. It was expected that they would learn their lesson and set out to make reforms, but we were completely surprised to see that in the last issue of that organization's magazine they again set out to explain the answer from the officials of the Voice and Vision organization in another way with a heading on the cover of the magazine saying that the Voice and Vision organization had given its answer and other things, which is most unfortunate.

He added: First of all, before giving any kind of answer to the issues raised, the gentlemen began by discussing the character assassination and the record of the council's respected members. They used inappropriate charges, accusations and calumny to try to undermine and damage the standing and position of these dear ones, and to subject them to questioning. Praise God, their efforts failed, because the members of the council are known to the people and the people have sufficient understanding and knowledge of their record of combat, religion and piety.

Some of these gentlemen were on the front lines of combat against the despicable Pahlavi regime. In reality they were among the leaders and managers of the secret and open meetings in opposition, and in continuation of that, of the demonstrations against the shah's regime. However, our people are not aware of the Voice and Vision organization's executive director's record of combat. They only know that when prominent figures such as Mr. Movahedi-Saveji and the esteemed teacher Mr. Parvaresh were fighting and making efforts to overthrow the monarchy, the executive director of the Voice and Vision organization was in America, far away from the land of blood and uprising.

Finally, there are many significant and regrettable points in this report. An example is support for managers and individuals who have a record of convictions and files with the Ministry of Justice for the crime of embezzling and consuming alcohol. The deputies of the people and the nation are asking, Mr. executive director of the Voice and Vision organization, are these the same religious and committed people to whom you have entrusted the management of part of the Voice and Vision organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which must be a revolutionary organization? We want the Voice and Vision organization to promote ethics, Islamic behavior, Koranic signs and verses, the Islamic revolution, piety and faith. The Voice and Vision organization must promote the ethics, behavior and thinking of the basijis, and not just in the form of an anthem.

In conclusion, the deputy from Damavand harshly criticized the mocking of a physics teacher in the serial "The Beauty Shop."

Legislation

Majles Articles 88 and 90 Commission Seeks Reform of Central Selection Cell

Majles Finance Proposal

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was the Majles Finance Proposal (returned from the Guardian Council). The commission's amendments were approved by the deputies.

The commission's amendments pertained to Article 2, in order to gain the approval of the Guardian Council.

Article 2 says: The Majles budget will be prepared by the Majles, in observance of the laws, and will be included in the National Budget Law.

Among the reasons the Guardian Council deleted the law was Article 183 in the Majles Internal Guidelines, which states: Supply managers have until 15 Azar [6 December] each year to prepare the general Majles budget for the following year. After its approval by the Speaker's Council, it will be brought back to the Majles by 1 Dey [22 December] for submission to the Accounting Commission. After its review the commission will submit a report by 15 Dey [5 January] for inclusion in the National Budget. The speaker will send it to the Council of Ministers, and the government will give it back to the Majles verbatim as a part of the National Budget. After Majles approval, the supply department will be authorized to implement it.

Administrative Violations Bill

The next item on the agenda was the Administrative Violations Bill (returned from the Guardian Council), for which the following amendments were approved by the Majles:

The following text is added to the end of Article 19:

If the judicial authorities decide on an acquittal, the Administrative Violations Council will act in accordance with Article 24 of this law.

The text of Article 19, to which will be appended the commission's amendment, is as follows:

Article 19: Whenever an employees violation is also one of the crimes given in the penalties' laws, the Administrative Violations Council is required to deal with the violator in accordance with this law and to issue a lawful opinion, and then to send a list of the instances for investigation into the crime to the competent judicial authority. Any decision by the judicial authorities will not prevent application of the administrative punishments.

Article 22: The following language is appended to Note 2, Article 22:

"Except in the event that secret personal interest is proven."

The text of Note 2 is as follows: No member of the administrative violations councils may be prosecuted judicially in connection with the opinions issued by the aforementioned councils.

The note to Article 25 was deleted:

During their term of membership, the members of the administrative violations councils will have the rights of a group higher than those of the relevant merit group.

Articles 88 and 90 Commission's Report on Selection Performance

The third item on the agenda was the report from the Articles 88 and 90 Commission on selection performance. The commission expert read this report as follows:

1. In view of the executive and practical problems with selection, complaints have been sent through the respected Majles deputies to this commission from applicants concerning the manner of selection of those seeking to work in the teaching profession and at teacher training schools in the 1371-1372 [1992-93] academic year.

2. After reviewing the complaints received, this commission has set out to solve the existing problems and difficulties with selection. On this basis, to alleviate the obstacles and

problems it decided to hold expert meetings attended by members of the Central Education and Training Selection Council and the National Education Executive Staff. The subject was discussed in numerous sessions from various perspectives, and the following conclusions were reached:

(a) Revision and reappraisal of files received from the teacher examination and the teacher training program in the 1371-1372 [1992-93] academic year.

(b) The creation of an independent code for applicants who have priority and are involved in the 1371-1372 experiment.

(j) [as published] The central selection councils are required to make greater efforts to answer protests and complaints from applicants more quickly.

(s) [as published] This commission believes that selection is an important and entirely necessary matter for the preservation of Islamic values in organizations and executive and judicial formations, especially in educational centers. Despite this, the selection councils must also have greater ability to exchange information and to employ practical and logical procedures. Likewise, they must move ahead more than before by reducing the problems and difficulties arising from performing their sensitive and important responsibilities in seeking to achieve the high goals of selection, which is a memento from our great Imam (peace be upon him). They must be as determined as possible. They must take the necessary measures with regard to the following matters:

(a) Developing the necessary and appropriate resources, tools and leverage for the responsibilities assigned to them, with the cooperation of the respected officials of the relevant organization.

(b) Alleviating the organizational shortcomings, and making the principle of selection a coordinated and lawful matter.

(j) [as published] Providing careful, principled and coordinated training with the critical mission of selection, which in some cases has brought about thoughtlessness and dealings from a personal perspective.

4. For the purpose of following up the shortcomings and creating a coordinated organization in the framework of the law, appropriate for the aforementioned organization's responsibilities, a meeting was held at this commission's headquarters attended by the respected members of the Supreme Selection Council and the pertinent deputies and experts, and a report was presented on the activities and measures taken by the council.

Conclusions

After listening to the Supreme Selection Council and praising this revolutionary body for its efforts, this commission presented the following ways to improve selection affairs:

(a) Existing weaknesses and practical and executive malfunctions in the central councils and selection cells must be identified and appropriate steps must be taken to alleviate them.

(b) The councils must expedite the giving of sufficient and documented answers to the protests from applicants concerning selection procedures.

(j) [as published] The necessary and continuous coordination between the Supreme Selection Council and the central councils and the Articles 88 and 90 Commission in order to create confidence among applicants based on giving appropriate answers to complaints.

(d) To present coordinated and proper models in decision making and evaluation, His Holiness the Imam's command on the matter of selection must take the form of law.

Chief of the Constitution Articles 88 and 90 Commission

Mohammad 'Ali Shar'i

National Islamic Revolution University Proposal

The next item on the agenda was the report from the Culture and Higher Education Commission on the National Islamic Revolution University Proposal, whose continued discussion was postponed to the next session.

It is necessary to mention that the appropriate commission rejected this proposal for the following reasons:

1. In terms of its goals, the National Islamic Revolution University resembles the Payam-e Nur University. Therefore, the goals mentioned, in view of the existence of Payam-e Nur University, are not achievable.

2. The lack of an educational framework will cause disruptions in the nation's system of higher education, and the creation of minimum faculty for this university will cause it to take the form of Payam-e Nur University.

3. In view of the requirement for minimum teaching quality, the educational expenses for students at this university will not be less than those for a correspondence university such as Payam-e Nur University.

4. The credentials required for admission to this university have not been specified.

5. In view of the fact that this university includes all university phases, it will create major problems for the expert guidance and doctoral programs, where the project must have a relationship to rahnema'i documents.

6. It is not practical to obtain functional units in this university unless the government allocates a very high budget. On the one hand this conflicts with the spirit of establishing this university, and on the other hand, in the event that it has a budget, it would be better to spend that money on another university such as Payam-e Nur University.

Very Urgent Motion To Amend Paragraph 4, Note 6 of the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] Budget Law

The final item on the agenda was the very urgent proposal to amend Paragraph 4, Note 6 of the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] National Budget Law.

Rahbari Amlashi, deputy from Rudsar, discussed the motion's very urgent status. He said: Since the province of Gilan is in a flood and earthquake area, and a new phenomenon in the form of the rising waters of the Caspian Sea has recently been added to these unexpected problems and disasters, in the year 1371 [21 March 1992-20 March 1993] and the first half of the year 1372 [21 March-22 September 1993], the disasters in Gilan are expected to cost more than 106 billion tomans. Of this amount, about 9 billion tomans

[as published] is provided for unexpected disasters in Note 6, of which 25 billion is provided for the year 1372. This total amount cannot answer to all these losses.

In conclusion, he asked for more attention to credits for unexpected disasters in the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] Budget Law.

After talks by opponents and supporters, the motion's very urgent status was put to a vote and was not approved.

Urgent status for the motion was then put to a vote and approved.

Majles Highlights

Speeches

Ansari, deputy from Abadan, discussed the reconstruction of war-stricken areas. He said: We believe that the chief of the Plan and Budget Organization and its experts are opposed to the nation's war-stricken areas. Why don't they look into this matter? Elsewhere he says: The chief of the Plan and Budget Organization still does not realize that more than half the populous rural areas near the big cities such as Khorramshahr have not been reconstructed.... He said: I have been trying to to see Mr. Zanjani for some time, but he does not give time to the deputies.

In his five-minute speech, Rasuli-Nezhad, deputy from Firuzkuh and Damavand, criticized the Voice and Vision organization. He said: Following the remarks the speaker of the Majles made previously concerning the Voice and Vision organization, it was expected that the officials of the Voice and Vision organization would be warned and set out to reform their affairs, but in that organization's magazine, they again printed a detailed answer against the Majles Investigation and Interpellation Group.

Continuing, he discussed the luminous record of the members of the Majles Investigation and Interpellation Group, such as Mr. Parvaresh and Mr. Movahedi-Saveji. He said: When these combatants were fighting and working against the oppressive monarchy, the executive director of the Voice and Vision organization was in America.

In his speech, Moqanian, deputy from Bijar, discussed the basijis and their bravery and sacrifice. In part of his speech he discussed the Second Five-Year Plan with respect to the proposal to amend the Labor Law and he criticized it.

Bahrami, deputy from Asadabad and chief of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission, discussed issues related to the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: We must study the matter of taxes from an expert perspective. Unfortunately, we do not collect taxes from the government sectors. Elsewhere in his talk he discussed the matter of privatization. He added: If we do not make provisions for public participation, the nongovernment sector will not want to do government work. Elsewhere in his talk the chief of the Majles Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission said that the existing administrative system is incapable of performing the responsibilities given to it in the Second Five-Year Plan.

Legislation

One of the items on yesterday's agenda was the report from the Articles 88 and 90 Commission, in which the executive and practical problems of selection of applicants in teaching fields and for teacher training centers for the 1371-1372 [1992-1993] academic year were discussed. Previously complaints were sent by applicants to the above commission. After reviewing the complaints received the commission set out to solve the existing problems in the matter of selection, and decided to hold expert meetings attended by members of the Central Selection Council, the Ministry of Education and Training and the Executive Staff of the National Examination. Among its conclusions was that there should be a reappraisal of the files and the complaints concerning the teacher examination and teacher training for the 1371-1372 academic year.

Weekly Agenda for Commissions

The most important agenda items for this week's meetings are as follows:

Islamic Guidance and Art Commission

Study of the method of punishing individuals who engage in authorized audiovisual activities

Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission

Study of the bill to form the province of Qazvin

Study of the motion to prohibit continued study of the nation's agents during office hours

Plan and Budget Commission

Study of the question from the deputy from Kashan to the minister of petroleum concerning Note 29 of the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] Budget Law.

Presentation of the report and study on bread affairs by the deputy from Mahneshan.

Economic and Financial Affairs Commission

Study of the nation's current foreign exchange issues

Petroleum Affairs Commission

Study of the bill to amend the 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] national budget law concerning the budget for government companies

Industries and Mines Commission

Study of the bill to authorize the collection of indirect taxes on some goods and services

Report from the deputy minister of finance and the chief of the Foreign Investments Organization on attracting foreign investment to Iran

Judicial Affairs Commission

Study of the motion to set a documents fee for official offices

Second consultation on the Islamic penalties bill

Hygiene and Welfare Commission

Study of the sanitary handling of bread

Study of pharmaceutical and pharmacy industry issues

Culture and Higher Education Commission

Invitation to Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani concerning Amir Kabir University

*** 30 Nov**

94LA0043A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Dec 93 pp 5, 14

[Text] Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in public session yesterday and the deputies from Avaj and Bu'in Zahra, Bam, Astaneh-ye Ashrafieh and Minudasht gave speeches. We direct your attention to the detailed proceedings.

'Abdol-Majid Naderi, Deputy From Bu'in Zahra

The achievements of our government in the life of the nation are unprecedented in all of the past century.

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session was Naderi, deputy from Bu'in Zahra. In his speech he offered congratulations on the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Zahra (peace be upon her). He discussed Majles Day and said: We are the standard-bearers of a movement in the world that wants to promote Islamic thought as the way and method of life, the way of government and the way of progress throughout the world, a movement that wants to support this idea so that it can find a comprehensive government.

He added: Our Islamic revolution is considered a serious threat to infidel domination. Wherever the banner of Islam flies, it means cutting out domineering interests. It is therefore no surprise that the world's prosperous nations are using all their resources to silence this movement, and in so doing they have no hesitation about cultural invasions, economic pressures, killings, assassinations, and military mobilization. Our strategy with the world must be based on this reality. We must not contentedly think that the era of war and hostility is over and that we can advance our affairs merely through delicate cultural and diplomatic negotiations.

Naderi explained: Today the West cannot speak with us about freedom, democracy and respect for beliefs, because the stagnation of the Western nations in the last decade has shown that the West neither believes in democracy nor in human rights, nor does it respect Muslim religious ideas and beliefs.

Must we not assume that the West not only does not believe in freedom and democracy, but it also supports the greatest and most extensive government terrorist network in the world? The slaughter of Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina is such a disaster. It has now become clear that the main plot in these disastrous crimes was carefully organized under the supervision of the prominent governments in the West such as England, France, and America, and that they want to prevent the Muslims of Bosnia and Herzegovina from having a political personality at any price.

The deputy from Bu'in Zahra then discussed Galindopol's recent report on the human rights situation in Iran. He said: Our brothers in the nation's various sectors must do whatever is in the path of Islam with strength and vigor, without paying any attention to this commotion, and they must realize that walking the path of God will also bring these kinds of protests and tricks. The judicial system must act only to implement Islam, and in the best way so as to be a model and an example to the world.

Continuing his remarks, Naderi noted: Today Western propaganda is portraying the Islamic Republic's debts as a factor in the bankruptcy of this government in the world, although everyone knows that our government is one of the best established and strongest governments in the region. Our late payments are mainly a matter of management of currency in circulation, not the bankruptcy of a government.

The achievements of our government in building the country and doing infrastructure work are unprecedented in all of the past century. We must never lose our equilibrium in times of crisis and forget our power. As one of your small brothers, I say to my Majles colleagues that we are responsible to this nation and we must take the work of the Majles seriously.

He continued: Treasury resources are not sacrificial meat, part of which anyone is free to take for his electoral district. The Second Five-Year Plan must be studied carefully in the Majles. The deputies must prepare their work as representatives for several months. It is the duty of each deputy to study the Five-Year Plan.

Naderi then condemned the evil talk concerning the three Iranian Islands, and he praised the efforts of the Supreme Security Council. He said:

To achieve our goals in the world, we must play a calculated role that can be amended and evaluated so that we can find our weaknesses and find the way out of nonsuccesses and towards victory and achieving goals. Diplomatic moves and negotiations alone cannot cover the scope of our diplomatic relations, which include diplomacy, economic, scientific and cultural relations.

Our embassies in the world are not evaluated in terms of their numbers. The primary consideration is their performance in terms of our foreign interests. It is our view that we must reappraise the number of embassies. Instead of emphasizing expansion, the quantity of personnel and resources, we should redirect our attention to increasing the efficiency of the individuals.

Majid Dabestani, Deputy From Bam

The lack of policies supporting domestic production is causing production stagnation.

The next speaker was Dabestani, deputy from Bam. In his speech he offered congratulations on the arrival of Majles day. He said: What is being seen today is that the youth are more attracted to existing ties and customs. Their talents and abilities are not being cultivated in the desired way. Employment must be created for them so that the greatest service will be given to society's most esteemed class.

He discussed the talents and vast area of the province of Kerman. He expressed thanks for the efforts of Mr. Mar'ashi, governor-general of this province, and discussed the Second Five-Year Plan. He said: Reinforcing and perpetuating the political independence of nations that have freed themselves from the chains of captivity and slavery by the imperialist nations entails obtaining economic independence. This independence is obtained through effort, sacrifice and attention to science and research.

Although certain domestic and foreign factors such as the imposed war, the economic embargo and the sharp drop in the price of oil on the international market have caused problems for the Iranian nation's efforts to continue its political independence and achieve economic independence, the people and the officials are determined to show the world their firm determination to realize the aspirations of the Islamic revolution.

He noted that the lack of policies supporting domestic production is causing production stagnation. He said: Although full support for domestic industries affects the quality of the goods produced, guiding support from the officials is quite important.

The deputy from Bam discussed the nation's educational problems. He said: Have achievable goals been outlined in the area of education and training in a specific and practicable way to move society in the desired direction? Are the methods currently being used in our educational system taking us to the goals required for our values and social system?

Hasan Shakhesi, Deputy From Astaneh-ye Ashrafieh

Think about the farmers, and go to their aid.

Shakhesi, deputy from Astaneh-ye Ashrafiyeh, was another pre-agenda speaker. In his talk he offered congratulations on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Modarres and on Majles Day. He said: Today if we all think like basijis, I am certain that we will prevail over all natural and artificial crises.

He then discussed the ideas in opposition to following the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult. He said: Some people pay lip service to following the vice-regency of the chief jurisconsult, and deal in this way with the heirs to the revolution. You would think they really don't understand who has kept the revolution strong and protected it. The gentlemen must realize that the nation's basijis are soldiers of the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his joyful advent), and that respect for them is respect for the vice-regent and the imamate.

He then addressed the commanders of the three branches of the armed forces. He said: They must pay the money owed to the dear military people, who have sacrificed and given freely in the sacred defense.

Continuing, the deputy from Astaneh-ye Ashrafieh discussed the Plan and Budget Organization's inattention to the talents of the province of Gilan in the First Five-Year Plan. He said: I must say that Sefidrud River has a special place in the National Budget Law. Unfortunately, because of the massive size of the project to build walls and dredge this river, the small amount of credits allocated has meant that the destruction has not been prevented in the way that it could be and should be. Instead, because of the lack of resources in the province, the increased soil erosion and sedimentation behind the huge Manjil dam has gone into the sea and the Sefidrud River has risen indescribably.

Shakhesi then discussed the rising waters of the Caspian Sea and the threatened lives of the people in the area. He said: Several days ago I declared from this very podium that you must think about the farmers and go their aid. Do you realize that the deputies of parliament in Korea made a general protest because of the importation of rice into their country, and walked out of a session of parliament to support this class?

He added: A brother in the Majles says how is it that rice can be imported into Iran from America and be sold by Iranian merchants at 600 rials? Do you people who think like this believe that you can bring the cost of production and the inflation rate that exist in those countries into Iran? How long will our farmers tolerate the losses from the nation's lack of economic planning?

He added: Some people are sloganeering and writing things about relations with America. Some people, using practical plots and expert suggestions, are moving Islamic Iran in America's direction. I am sounding the alarm. I am suspicious of the so-called economic experts whose program is failing every day.

He added: Yesterday everyone was complaining about all the montage industries. Today I ask, why all the imports in the form of dumping? Why have we abandoned our political and economic thesis so soon? Who are the people who have brought the nation's economy to this point? Why has the commercial profits tariff on rice been set at 1 percent of the summer price? Is the emphasis today on supporting producers of passenger automobiles, or those who produce rice, tea, almonds, wheat and grain? Who were and are the experts guiding the nation's economy? What group are we supporting now?

He then criticized the Ministry of Commerce for excessive imports of foreign goods. He called upon the officials of Iran's Fisheries Department to take an Islamic approach to fishermen and to respect the verdicts of the competent courts.

In conclusion, the speaker reminded the appropriate officials about the problems in his electoral district.

'Abdollah Sani'-Sa'idi, Deputy From Minudasht

Sa'idi, deputy from Minudasht, was the final pre-agenda speaker. In his talk he discussed the fact that the term "basij" lives forever and that the basijis are always alive, alert, and loyal to Islam and its values. He said: The basiji is in the flesh, the skin and the veins of every Iranian. His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him) said that the basij is the school of love and the orthodoxy of anonymous martyrs. Its followers are the blossoms who have bloomed in answer to the call for bravery and martyrdom.

The deputy from Minudasht then expressed sympathy for the families of the martyrs of Gonbad who have lost lives in unexpected disaster. He praised all the officials and people who took part in the funeral services. He asked the martyr foundation to grant coverage to the survivors of these dear ones.

He commemorated Ayatollah Modarres's martyrdom anniversary and Majles Day and said: After my prior requests and letters concerning the assignment of four hectares of Gelaleh land, which has not been nationalized for the purpose of building a cultural and sports society for basijis, which was also approved in the Article 32 Commission, I now ask the minister of the Reconstruction Crusade to issue emphatic orders to the general manager of natural resources for Gorgan and Gonbad.

He then noted: Organizing the reconstruction crusade of Gorgan and Gonbad with Gorgan as the center resembles the proposal to make Qazvin or Qom into a province, while 70 percent of the Reconstruction Crusade development projects in East Mazandaran are in the Gonbad and Minudasht area because of the depth of their deprivation.

In conclusion he issued a memo to the minister of agriculture on the shortage of fertilizer delivered to farmers and the dangers of that.

Legislation

The first item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the report from the first consultation of the Culture and Higher Education Commission concerning the rejection of the proposal for a national Islamic revolution university. After discussion and study, the general form of the bill was approved.

This proposal states: The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education is required to administer examinations to the various applicants for all the university courses, whether applied or academic, based on the designated national program, and, after the necessary phases have been completed, to issue them academic credentials.

The next item on the agenda was the urgent motion on the procedure for dealing with the annual National Budget and the Five-Year Plan, proposed by the government.

The expert from the Domestic Guidelines Commission made comments and said: This motion was discussed and studied in numerous sessions, and with the cooperation of the designers of both motions.

This motion states: Ten hours is allocated for discussion of the general form of the annual national budget, three and one-half hours for opponents, three and one-half hours for supporters, one hour for the commission expert, and two hours for the government representative. Each speaker is also allowed 15 minutes, all or part of which may be used by another person.

Likewise, after the budget bill is presented to the Majles by the government, the Majles deputies have five days in which to submit revenue proposals and a maximum of three days after the approval of the first consultation to submit other proposals in writing to the specialist commissions and to submit a copy to the Plan and Budget Commission. No more than two weeks after the bill is sent to commission, the specialist commissions are required to study the proposals from the deputies and to submit their report on the allocated revenues to the Plan and Budget Commission.

Then several deputies opposing and supporting the motion spoke, and its continued consideration was postponed to the next session.

* 1 Dec

94LA0045A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 2 Dec 93 pp 5, 14

[Excerpts]

Procedure for Considering Annual National Budget Bill and Five-Year Plan Changed

Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met in open session yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri. The deputies from Qasr-e Shirin, Kermanshah, Ahar, Ardebil and Khomeini Shahr gave speeches. We direct your attention to the detailed proceedings below.

Majles Speaker's Remarks

At yesterday's open Majles session Mr. Nateq-Nuri commemorated the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Seyyed Hasan Modarres and Majles Day. [passages of praise omitted]

Continuing, the Majles speaker said: In fairness, the exposition which has opened with the initiative of the Majles and with the cooperation of the Veteran's and Oppressed People's Foundation's Center for Cultural Research and Study in the former Majles (Baharestan) has much to offer. Every place in this expose speaks of the shameful treaties in the time of the Qajars, with the Russian and English imperialists. In those days the leaders in the fight against these shameful treaties were the clergy.

Mr. Nateq-Nuri then added: Unfortunately we have only one copy of these documents, and before this they were never exhibited. These documents are quite interesting to see. It is necessary that we see along with these documents the honorable way in which the clergy dealt with these shameful treaties throughout history. I advise everyone to see this expose, which will be open from today until the 17th. We in the Majles hope to fill the shoes of those like Modarres. We ask God for help. Let us continue in Modarres's path defending Islam and the luminous commands of the Koran, defending the nation's territorial integrity and fighting world imperialism, led by America. May this path always be heavily traveled and may it continue until the return of Mehdi (may God hasten his joyful advent).

'Ali Mir Karami, Deputy From Qasr-e Shirin, Gilangharb and Sarpol-e Zahab

Those who oppose the Majles research and investigation reports are damaging their own reputations.

The next speaker was Mr Karami, deputy from Qasr-e Shirin. He commemorated the martyrdom anniversary of Martyr Modarres and Majles Day. He discussed the shameful PlO-Israel agreement and said:

The compromise between the PLO and the Zionist regime, which came about following the peace negotiations between the Arabs and the Zionist regime, is not a small political event. In view of the fact that the essence of this agreement is economic and that it will create fear in connection with the economy of the Middle East between the Arab nations and the Zionist regime, one must very alertly and carefully follow its repercussions in the Middle East.

Continuing, he noted: Despite all of America's claims, it is that country that wants direct relations and wants to add Iran to its policy of compromise in this part of Asia. The only country that has clearly risen in opposition to the process of compromise and its foundations is Islamic Iran.

He added: In his guidance, the exalted leader has confirmed the fact that America's relations with Iran are the relations between oppressor and oppressed. Today when the regime occupying Jerusalem is playing more important roles in the Middle East with America's support, it is incumbent upon us to keep these cultural and political plots from being digested by the Islamic nation and be watchful of the exalted cultural values of Islam and the Muslims.

Continuing, he said: With regard to the province of Kermanshah, unfortunately I was not in the Majles when the First Five-Year Plan was written, but it is undeniable that in this war-stricken province we see no sign of cultural, economic or social development in a way that would be worthy of an Islamic government. With regard to the Second Five-Year Plan also, unfortunately for reasons that I cannot discuss here, I was not successful in playing an active role writing it in cooperation with the province's executive organizations. It is here that our exalted and thoughtful leader has repeatedly discussed social justice and applying justice to all phases of life, especially in the Second Five-Year Plan, and the nation's officials are familiar with the spirit of justice. If planning and the allocation of credits are not done based on sufficient information and on the existing indicators for each province, then the spirit of justice will disappear, and then one will not be able to say that you implemented social justice in your work. For example, the province of Kermanshah is one of the provinces that lost its primary capital during the war and in which no investment has been made.

In view of the fact that the province has economic resources, a variety of climactic conditions and productive soil and water, it has potential resources for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry, but due to inattention and lack of investment, numerous problems have arisen such as poverty, unemployment, and educational and social problems. On the one hand it has been a parade ground for political groups who have always sought to strengthen their political position instead of serving these oppressed people. If the officials do not do real and fundamental scientific and practical planning with open eyes, sufficient information and using the existing indicators in this province, I will say plainly that this province has been oppressed.

Continuing, the speaker said: It is not possible to achieve political independence without economic independence. Unfortunately, however, one hears that in the Second Five-Year Plan we will see a deep rift between the poor and the rich and that these gaps which were created for personal and other considerations in the provinces and especially in the province of Kermanshah will not be corrected without the directions of the exalted leader concerning the planning of the Second Five-Year Plan.

Another matter, which surprised those of us deputies from the war-stricken areas, was that Note 31, which applied to the war-stricken areas, seems to have been deleted. In fairness, what kind of thing is this that the Plan and Budget Organization is doing? Do you not realize that most of the border areas such as Naft Shahr, Khosravi, Mumar and hundreds of other villages in the southwest part of the country have not yet been rebuilt?

Continuing, the speaker asked the president of the republic to see about retaining this note.

Continuing, he noted: Based on the Constitution, the commands of the late Imam (peace be upon him) and those of the exalted leader, it is incumbent upon the noble nation of Iran to preserve the sanctity of the three branches of the government. If someone claims to be following the Imam's line and that of the exalted leader and in practice sets out to weaken each of the three branches, he will not be truthful in his words and speech about following the imam and the leader.

He defended Majles research and investigation. He said: Some organizations have written at times in opposition to the research and investigation studies announced by the Majles. They are doing nothing but damaging their own reputations and undermining our efforts. My advice is that they refrain from doing these improper and inappropriate things. If the respected Majles deputies are to be criticized by their vain justifications, then their weaknesses will be made clear to everyone. To keep from creating intellectual confusion in society, we will refrain from doing that now, but there are limits and boundaries to patience.

In conclusion he praised the officials of the reconstruction crusade in his electoral district.

Ms. Akhtar Derakhshandeh, Deputy From Kermanshah

The Muslim women of Iran are moving forward in the face of the imperialist cultural invasion, with contempt for Western styles and Western ways.

Another pre-agenda speaker was Ms. Derakhshandeh, deputy from Kermanshah. She quoted the Imam (peace be upon him) concerning the chaste Zahra and offered congratulations on the joyous birth anniversary of that great one (peace be upon her) and its coinciding with the birth date of the Imam (peace be upon him). She said: [passages of praise omitted]

Our late Imam said: The role of the woman in society is higher than that of the man, because besides the fact that women themselves play an active role in all dimensions, they nurture active generations in their bosoms. Much of the work of the men also depends on the work of the women. The women of Iran played a greater role in this uprising and in this revolution. A nation whose women are in the front

ranks to advance Islamic goals will not be damaged. If the women who build human beings are removed from nations, the nations will be defeated.

In the Islamic system, the woman participates actively with the men as a human being building the Islamic society. Islam has liberated the women and Islam has served women so much in those areas where there was ignorance that God knows it has not served men as much.

Valiollah Ahmadi-Zadsarai, Deputy From Ahar and Haris

In compiling the Second Five-Year Plan, I call upon the government to make up for the deficiencies in the First Five-Year Plan and to keep social justice in mind.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Valiollah Ahmadi-Zadsarai, deputy from Ahar and Haris. In his speech he said: Throughout the years of the sacred defense, the zealous and valiant basijis created epic scenes, and they fearlessly and aggressively went onto the battlefields of religious crusade, martyrdom, and sacrifice. They guarded every inch of our Islamic land by shedding their blood and they destroyed the hopes of the enemy, which were to destroy the Islamic revolution. Today we are living in complete security thanks to all this sacrifice by the basijis and the combatants of Islam.

He then commemorated the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Modarres and Majles Day, and he praised and thanked the toiling government, and especially the exalted leader, for their abundant help to the Muslim refugees of Azerbaijan. He emphasized: Once again it has been proved that the only supporter for the world's deprived and Muslim people is the Islamic Republic of Iran. Human rights groups and international organizations are always silent and always pursuing their economic and political interests. We call upon the aggressor rulers of Armenia to stop wounding the feelings of Muslims and to stop slaughtering, plundering, and killing Azeri women and children.

Elsewhere in his speech he said: The notes for the Second Five-Year Plan Bill are being studied one after the other by the respected Council of Ministers as the bill is being written, yet nothing is being done about the strengths and weaknesses of the First Five-Year Plan, and it is not clear how much of the First Five-Year Plan has been achieved. Before presenting this bill, it would be better to present a report on the accomplishments of the First Five-Year Plan. I ask the respected government, in preparing the Second Five-Year Plan, to make up for the deficiencies in the First Five-Year Plan and to keep social justice and society's vulnerable and deprived classes in mind. Throughout the First Five-Year Plan this class faced increasing pressure. The orientation and performance of the First Five-Year Plan mainly worked in the service of society's prosperous classes. Pressure must not be brought on the oppressed and deprived, who are the real supporters of the Islamic revolution, in the name of economic adjustment and development.

He also added: I thank and praise the respected president of the republic for the worthy act of stopping the foreign exchange dealers from gathering in front of the banks and preventing an undesirable situation by having the distribution of foreign exchange be done by the Central Bank and other banks. On behalf of the martyr-nurturing nation of Iran, I ask that he prevent unbridled price increases for public goods and necessities and government services.

High inflation has put extreme pressure on the people, and in view of the emphasis from the exalted leader on dealing with the problems of society's deprived classes, and the emphasis the respected president of the republic has given to social justice in conjunction with the economic adjustment program, the oppressed and deprived people in society expect serious measures to be taken to control prices and fight selling at high prices. I ask him not to allow the needs of the people to be used any longer as a plaything for a small group of people, making the nation's economic capabilities even weaker in the situation that has developed. To stop this process, steps must be taken to export produced and nonoil goods and to reduce dependence on oil exports. If the nation's economy becomes more dependent on oil, it will break up the economy. Measures must be taken to properly guide and control exports.

In conclusion, the deputy from Ahar and Haris discussed the problems in his electoral district. He issued memos to the minister of culture and higher education concerning the operation of the Nursing and Midwifery College and the Free Islamic University, as well as starting the Payam-e Nur University, to the minister of education and training concerning the establishment of a teacher training center, and to the minister of roads and transportation concerning the Ahar-Tabriz road.

Nasruddin Nu'i-Aqdam, Deputy From Ardebil

The fourth pre-agenda speaker was Nu'i-Aqdam, deputy from Ardebil, who used three minutes of the deputy from Ahar's time.

At the beginning of his talk he invoked the memory of the learned Martyr Modarres and commemorated Majles Day. He praised those who held the interesting and unprecedented ceremonies in honor of this great man and also the learned remarks by the speaker of the Majles.

He then added: I thank the respected government for presenting the governor-general of Ardebil. I also announce the heartfelt thanks of the noble residents and deputies of the province of Ardebil to the respected minister of the interior, his deputies and accompanying delegation, who presented the respected governor-general of this province during a heavy snow storm and in the midst of an unprecedented blizzard, enduring much hardship and spending three days of their time.

I wish success to Dr. Ahmadinezhad, the respected governor-general of the province of Ardebil. I ask the respected government to implement carefully Note 2, Article 1 of the Law To Establish the Province of Ardebil calling for the division of resources, credits and assets between the province of East Azarbaijan and Ardebil, and I ask that special help be provided to solve the basic problems in this province, and that a comprehensive effort be made to strengthen the governor-general.

Nu'i-Aqdam also thanked and praised the officers, organizations and bodies in the area for their comprehensive efforts to create favorable conditions to host the minister of the interior.

He then issued memos to the minister of petroleum concerning increasing fuel ration in the province of Ardebil, to the minister of the Reconstruction Crusade about making available special resources and machinery for reopening the roads in more than 300 rural areas in Ardebil, which were blocked because of the severe storm, and to the Plan and Budget Organization and the minister of roads and transportation concerning studying and implementing the Mabaneh, Khalkhal and Ardebil railroad project.

Seyyed Mohammad Ahmadi, Deputy From Khomeini Shahr

I advise the Supreme Economic Council not to get any further away from the people.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Emami discussed the anniversary of the martyrdom of Martyr Modarres. He said: On the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Modarres, I direct the attention of the respected deputies to one of the speeches of that crusading descendant of the Prophet. If you see that I am speaking recklessly, it is because I have nothing and I do not want anything from anyone. If you also lighten your load and reduce your expectations, you will be free.

Yes, Modarres is alive, and he will live as long as history lives.

He continued: On Sunday 8/23/1372 [14 November 1993], the respected speaker of the Majles said: Our Majles is the only one in the world that has political and social independence. I wanted to say to you, is this independence the same as the independence of my home, which is in my name, although the mayor can make any kind of decision he wishes for me and my family? I have been a consumer of natural gas for two years. In addition to the cost of consumption, every bill contains taxes and miscellanea. What are these miscellaneous charges and items on account, and into whose account do they go? From the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] to the middle of the year 1372 [23 September 1993], the charges for water, electricity, gas and telephone service have been astronomical. What deputy is independent? What God-fearing independent deputy will think about me, a wage-earning government worker, the toiling laborers, the small merchants, and the poor people? God knows that I am not affiliated with any group or faction. I have written memo so that perhaps they will think about it.

In conclusion he commemorated the birth anniversary of the chaste Zahra (peace be upon her). He said: I advise the Supreme Economic Council not to get any further away from the people.

Legislation

The only item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the urgent motion on Procedures for Considering the National Budget and the Five-Year Plan, proposed by the government, with a proposal to change the Majles Internal Guidelines in this regard.

'Ali Yusefpur spoke in opposition to the proposal to change the Majles Internal Guidelines. He said: Throughout the four terms of the Majles, most of the complaints we have had about the Plan and Budget Organization and also the Plan and Budget Commission have centered around a few areas: (1) deprived areas; (2) agriculture; (3) education and training, and other security and defense concerns. Although the Imam (peace be upon him) emphasized to the officials that they must see to the needs of the deprived areas, the question remains, why isn't there a specific policy in the annual national budget concerning the deprived areas? Why don't the relevant organization and the Plan and Budget Commission pay attention to these issues?

He then said: Assuming that the government is late submitting its budget, which must be brought to the Majles by 15 Azar [6 December] each year, by the time it gets to the commission it will be around the first of Dey [22 December]. From Dey to Bahman [22 December-21 January] we have no more than a month to deal with the budget. Can the Plan and Budget Commission deal with the proposals from 100 deputies and the specialist commissions? It definitely cannot do this. These brothers really do work around the clock, but they do not listen to everything that is said and they forget some of it. Therefore, this will not solve any problems.

Seyyed Morteza Nabavi spoke in support of the proposal. He said: The spirit of this motion is that by the time the deputies encounter problems in the budget bill, their views are not properly considered in the study of the budget bill. It is true that the Plan and Budget Commission meets with the specialist commissions and studies the proposals, but ultimately whatever the Plan and Budget Commission decides is implemented, while in this proposal what is decided in the joint commission is what goes before the Majles as the budget bill. That means that sufficient consideration will be given to the specialist commissions.

He then added: First of all, the objections the deputies have and their pessimism towards the Plan and Budget Commission will be eliminated with this proposal. Second, in view of the role and position of the Plan and Budget Commission, it is provided that the members of this commission are to be elected by the Majles itself and will have the confidence of the entire Majles, and the Majles deputies will elect them themselves with the understanding and the information they have.

The deputy from Tehran also said: Another issue is the dual consultations used in approving the bill, and this is a problem that is holding the country up right now. We come and provide for many expenditures and expenses, and on the other hand the revenues are not realistic. Last year you brothers on the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission and on the Petroleum Commission, how much did you say? These oil revenues that were in the budget bill did not materialize. No attention was paid to this, and we deputies are also sharing in the problems that we face this year. We approved an unrealistic revenue ceiling. It was therefore provided that all sectors would have one month to work on revenues, and when this work was done the shares of the sectors were set. Here the work of the specialist commissions becomes clear, and they have complete authority. They would be able to change the ceilings that were set for the sectors.

After the speech by the expert from the Internal Guidelines Commission, the motion was put to a vote and approved by a two-thirds vote. After approving the general form of the motion, because of its urgent status the Majles immediately

began studying its details and several paragraphs of changes to the Majles Internal Guidelines were approved.

Article 1: Parts of the Majles Internal Guidelines are amended as follows:

1 - Paragraph J, [as published] Article 65:

J. [as published] Ten hours is allocated for discussion of the general form of the annual National Budget, three and one-half hours for opponents, three andone-half hours for supporters, one hour for the commission expert, and two hours for the government representative. Each speaker is also allowed 15 minutes, all or part of which may be used by another person.

2 - Article 106: The National Budget Bill and its several 12ths [as published], supplements and amendments, will be approved in two consultations.

3 - Article 107: Majles deputies have five days in which to submit revenue proposals and a maximum of three days after the approval of the first consultation to submit other proposals in writing to the specialist commissions and to submit a copy to the Plan and Budget Commission.

4 - Article 108: No more than two weeks after the bill is sent to commission, the specialist commissions are required to study the proposals from the deputies and to submit their report on the revenues pertinent to their sectors to the Plan and Budget Commission.

5 - Article 109: In its first consultation, the Joint Commission for Plan and Budget, Economic and Financial Affairs and Cooperatives will study revenues from taxes, oil, other revenues and specialized revenues and will consider the recommendations from the specialist commissions. If there are differences of opinion with the specialist commission, the topic will be considered once again with the relevant commission's members in attendance with voting rights, and a final decision will be made.

Note 1 - No later than one month after the date the budget bill is submitted, the Joint Commission for Plan and Budget, Economic and Financial Affairs and Cooperatives must submit a report on its first consultation to the Majles for study, including the revenues section.

Note 2 - At the time of voting, the members of the specialist commission and the Plan and Budget Commission will have the right to vote.

6 - Article 110: During the first consultation, after discussion of the general form of the budget and its approval, a discussion will be held on revenues (oil, taxes, specialist revenues and other revenues).

7 - Article 111: In studying each section of the revenues, first the printed recommendations from the specialist commissions will be presented, followed by the recommendations from the assembly of deputies. Finally the recommendations from the Joint Commission for Plan and Budget, Economic and Financial Affairs and Cooperatives, including the previously approved proposals will be put to a vote.

Note 1 - The recommendations from the specialist commissions and the deputies must be reproduced and distributed along with the report on the overall budget by the General Office of Laws.

Note 2 - As is customary, the study of the recommendations will be done in a second consultation.

8 - Article 112: The revenues approved in the first consultation cannot be changed, and expenses cannot exceed the revenue ceiling.

9 - Article 113: After setting the revenue ceilings in the first consultation, the Plan and Budget Commission must set the share of each sector based on the logic in the plan, and it must convey this to the specialist commissions along with the budget policies. The specialist commissions will study the proposals from the deputies and submit their reports to the Plan and Budget Commission in no more than one week.

Note 1 - The creation or deletion of any row will be done on the recommendation of the specialist commission.

Note 2 - If his proposal is not approved in the specialist commission, the deputy making a proposal may submit it to the open session.

Continued discussion was postponed to the next session.

* 12 Dec

94LA0053A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Dec 93 p 5

[Excerpts] Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division. The Majles met yesterday chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri. The deputies from Tehran, Golpayegani, Sepidan, and Lanjan gave speeches. Then the Majles speaker offered condolences on the death of the esteemed source of emulation, Ayatollah al-'Ozma Golpayeganii. We direct the attention of our dear readers to the detailed proceedings.

Majles Speaker's Remarks

After the completion of the pre-agenda speeches, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Nateq-Nuri offered condolences to the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his joyful advent), the exalted leader and the Muslims of the world, especially the world of Shi'ism, on the death of the divine scholar, Ayatollah al-'Ozma Golpayeganii. He thanked the discerning and great nation of Iran for its participation in the funeral observances and added: The presence of these people at such events bears great significance both for us and for the world, and it bespeaks numerous issues. First, the public turnout was filled with zeal and love, especially in Tehran.

The body of that esteemed source of emulation left the cardiology hospital at 1330. It reached Railroad Square at 1800. The people expressed great zeal, passion, love, regret and sorrow, both in Tehran and Qom. The passion in Tehran was so great that the crowd of bereaved people who loved him prevented the body, which had been given to the people, from being removed from the mosque by the litter carrying it for more than an hour or an hour and a half. Finally the litter was destroyed. As in the case of the pure and chaste body of His Holiness the Imam (peace be upon him), they were forced to move the body by automobile to the sacred shrine of Her Holiness Ma'sumeh. If this had not been done, it is unlikely they would have gotten it to the immaculate shrine by sunset. This public turnout shows the depth of the faith of our people, the religious beliefs of the

people and the depth of their belief in the concept of the source of emulation, the clergy and religious fundamentals.

He said: It is clear that all this controversy and propaganda from the enemies of Islam and the revolution aimed at separating the people from the clergy has had no effect.

Qorban'ali Dari-Najafabadi, Deputy From Tehran

The only path of salvation from economic problems is to increase production and decrease consumption.

Another speaker was Mr. Dari-Najafabadi, deputy from Tehran. He offered condolences on the death of the source of emulation for the Shi'ites of the world, Ayatollah al-'Ozma Golpayeganii, and discussed the role of the Majles. He said: In view of the special position of the Majles in the Constitution, I remind you of its great role in the nation. The faith the leader and the people have in the Majles shows the legitimacy of our critical mission.

The experiences in various phases of lawmaking prove that the basic requirement for Majles success is its serious involvement in lawmaking affairs, its supervision of tasks, its acting on its lawful responsibilities and its proper guidance and organization of the nation. We all have a shared responsibility and the nation's fate depends on all of us. Every deputy has a responsibility to the entire nation. The effects of any kind of policy or law come back to all of us. Good laws that are solutions can be the foundation for sound and constructive movement in society and can elevate the country and the nation and make it proud.

The deputies are chosen by the nation. They must therefore see to all the nation's needs and think of ways to advance the nation while living simply and free from financial, political, regional, or ethnic attachments. They must avoid short-term and superficial thinking. The Majles deputies must be exemplary and they must solve problems for the nation's basic tasks. The Majles must be the eyes and ears of the nation, the country and the leader. They must take effective steps to change the fate of the nation by planning and enacting constructive and basic laws, and they must look at the effects of the measures they enact. The nation's economic and cultural problems are very important and they demand serious involvement and attention from the dear Majles deputies. Any kind of indifference or inattention will hurt everyone and is unforgivable.

He express the hope that the Majles will be seriously and extensively involved in the nation's affairs. He said: One of the important issues before us is the Second Five-Year Plan and the budget. What is important is paying attention to the existing situation and presenting suitable solutions, which will deliver us from current failures, will create the necessary conditions for advancing, expediting and transforming the nation's affairs, and will facilitate cutting our dependence on a one-product economy.

At this point it is necessary to choose proper policies, set proper priorities, preserve Islamic values relying on the nation's criteria, complete incomplete priorities, emphasize incomplete capacities, emphasize nonoil exports, train skilled manpower, and economize on consumption. Of course management, science and technology, increasing national savings and continuous and comprehensive crusading will play a fateful role in the nation's future changes, even though large steps have been taken in the First Five-Year Plan and the nation's potential and capacities are quite rich and reliable. However, the nation's current resources and foreign exchange are limited. They must be spent wisely and with concern, and they must be directed so that they will better bear fruit and bring the necessary return.

The many projects and tasks that began in the First Five-Year Plan must achieve a result under the Second Five-Year Plan in order to increase the nation's productive capacity. Serious support must be given to production, especially in the agriculture sector and to investment in production areas. Production must be valued and everyone must think about growth and increases in production. We must increase the gross national product and per-capita income. Without a doubt, the only path to salvation from economic problems is increasing production and reducing consumption.

It is necessary to pay attention to the scientific, educational, research and university centers. These centers must also take steps to meet the nation's needs, to promote growth, progress, and development and to reinforce the scientific, practical, material, and spiritual foundations of society. The executive organizations must also think alertly during this sensitive phase and increase their efficiency by reducing costs. They must act to increase their profitability and they must seriously avoid formalities and wasting public funds. They must seek to achieve the best distribution of the nation's resources and products, especially in the talented regions, with desirable quality.

The nation's monetary and financial system must also be changed with attention to the conditions in society. The tax system and the relevant policies must be made vigorous and active to meet general executive expenses, achieve social justice and obtain the what is due to the government. The share of taxes in the government's revenues must reach an acceptable figure. The auditing of tasks is also an important and key principle, which unfortunately is either not implemented or implemented very weakly in many affairs, and this is regrettable.

He added: The data tables on foreign exchange returns in the various sectors must also be evaluated and studied. Attention must also be given to allocating foreign exchange and resources to determine the nation's industrial strategy, which is an important matter.

Assuming that industry consumed more than $30 billion under the First Five-Year Plan using means from the banks and other resources, if priority was to be given to investment, intermediate and consumer industries, if the chain of final assembly and dependence production was to be minimized and were to have $9 billion in nonoil exports and if the role concerning the 2 million jobs under the First Five-Year Plan is to be played, attention must now be given to an answer to the nation's ability and capacity for development work. We must avoid starting any kind of new project unless it is exceptional and very necessary so that the tasks already begun can be completed.

He said: Unfortunately, nothing serious or significant has been done in the matter of privatization under the First Five-Year Plan, and the preparations necessary for this task have not been made in the proper sense of the word, and under the Second Five-Year Plan this itself must be included in the form of a plan.

In conclusion the speaker said: It is clear that the genius, talents and abilities of the people are the best capital and support for the government and the people. Extensive and active public participation in tasks will lead to stable growth. Any kind of inattention or rejection of the forces loyal to Islam and the nation will be painful, harmful and beneficial to the enemies of Islam.

Morteza Shayesteh, Deputy From Khansar and Golpayegani

Shayesteh, deputy from Khansar, was the second pre-agenda speaker. [passages omitted on condolences on Golpayeganii]

Nafiseh Fayazbakhsh, Deputy From Tehran

How is it that they are holding all these costly congresses and seminars, at a time when everyone is complaining about the budget shortage?

Ms. Fayazbakhsh was another pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's open Majles session. She commemorated the birth anniversary of the leader of the women of the world, Her Holiness the most pure Zahra.

We Muslim women are proud that she gave a sermon at the Mosque of the Prophet 14 centuries ago during an age of darkness for knowledge and civilization, and it still shines in the sky of Islamic knowledge, politics, rhetoric and eloquence, words that are at the level of Nahj ol-Balagheh.

Continuing, she said: Islam, the presenter of humanity's most progressive rights and laws, has specified the best procedures for the life of women, and it has always avoided the extremism into which both Westerners and Easterners have fallen to oppress Islam.

She added: Because of its failure to understand properly the philosophy of the creativity of woman, the West has always erred and continues to err in discussing the problems and issues of women. At the same time that it discusses her growth and perfection for engaging in coarse and manly affairs, it seems that its historical subjugation of women has occurred because they were women and because of their physical and psychological delicacy. It is as if creation, in creating the woman with all her physical and psychological delicacy, had condemned women to subjugation and made men superior because of their greater physical strength, and that in order to make up for creation's deficiency, the West always gives women absolute freedom and work that is equal to that of men.

Continuing, she added: Islam has given women the most fundamental role in cultural and economic development. It gives clear emphasis to the complete preservation of women's modesty and veiling. While it has prohibited the mixing of men and women, it always encourages the political and social involvement of women. It is such a good thing that our officials are doing serious planning to keep the men and the women in separate environments, following the obligation to enjoin good and prohibit evil.

Just as they have done on buses and in some recreational areas, it would be very good, as has been done in the elementary seminaries, if they would also make a serious effort to separate the academic environments of boys and girls in the universities and academic environments and at our free and government universities, especially today when there is an equal number of boys and girls in the universities.

She submitted the following memos:

1 - The payment of exorbitant wages to some ministry general managers, college and university presidents and hospital chiefs is definitely not covered by regulations and is unjust and an imposition on the public treasury. Why and under what regulation is the income ceiling for some general managers and hospital chiefs sometimes as high as 200,000 tomans per month? In these cases, unfortunately it appears that some officials consider the public treasure to be their own personal budget.

2 - The next issue is the many congresses and seminars that the ministry officials hold every few days. This is truly quite surprising. How is it that they are holding all these costly congresses and seminars, at a time when everyone is complaining about the budget shortage? Isn't this imposition on the public treasury solely a matter of propaganda and a way of conferring false dignity on the organization itself? This year alone about five seminars and congresses were held on children's illnesses at several universities. It would have been better if these events had been held simultaneously, with very rich and comprehensive substance as well. This would have been real propaganda for the Islamic Republic of Iran's scientific capability. I recommend that every year all the ministries present statistics on the number of their seminars and that a commission also be formed to confirm the need to hold these seminars and their scientific content, to keep them from presenting listeners with material that is to be found in every common science book and textbook in the name of a seminar and new scientific information.

Seyyed Abufazel Rezavi-Ardekani, Deputy From Sepidan

The turnout of millions for the funeral of this esteemed source of emulation showed to what extent our people care about the Islam of Mohammad and the pure clergy.

The next speaker was Ardekani, deputy from Sepidan. In his speech he offered condolences to all the Muslims of world on the death of the Shi'ite theologian and source of emulation. He discussed the matter of the source of emulation and the leadership. He said: At a time when the religious and political leadership of the revolution is held by a just and comprehensive person with independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence who was chosen by the Experts and has the nation's decisive acceptance, isn't this the most appropriate time for combining the roles of source of emulation and leader? Why do our theologians consider the vice-regent's orders binding on important matters pertaining to government, worship and politics, but consider his minor commands pertaining to worship non-binding? It is hoped that in the not-so-distant future our nation will see the unification of the roles of source of emulation and leader, and the guidance of society centered around the vice-regent. [passage omitted on condolences for Golpayegani]

Rezavi discussed America's disgraces in various parts of the world, especially Somalia. He condemned Clinton's meeting with Rushdie and France's giving asylum to the spouse of Rezavi the hypocrite. He said: Another of their tricks is

various kinds of pressure on the Islamic revolution and the government and nation of Iran, especially in the economic war and the drop in the price of oil.

Let our enemies realize that the Iranian nation will continue to obey the commands from the leader and to courageously support the government despite all the difficulties and problems, just as in the past. The Majles must think of ways to thwart this plot in the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget and in the Second Five-Year Plan. It must solve this problem by eliminating unnecessary expenses and writing the budget properly. It must help the toiling government in this critical task.

He thanked the Deprived Regions Office and the minister of the interior for their attention to the people. He also praised the government for allocating four billion rials credit for development projects.

Continuing, he asked for help and cooperation from the National Documents and Registry Office in the creation of a registry office in the municipality of Sepidan, and from the president of the Free Islamic University with the start-up of the Free Islamic University in the area.

The deputy from Sepidan thanked officials for their glorification of the position of women, and he called upon the government to declare a special day in commemoration of the martyrdom of Her Holiness Fatimeh Zahra (peace be upon her).

Mohsen Kuhkan, Deputy From Lanjan

To pave the way out of the current economic situation, I emphasize the need to eliminate unnecessary waste.

The final pre-agenda speaker was Mr. Kuhkan, deputy from Lanjan. In his speech he said that the extensive public turnout for the funeral and burial rites of His Holiness Ayatollah al-'Ozma Golpayeganii in Tehran and Qom was an indication of the public's extensive ties to the vice-regent's line and the leadership. Continuing, he said: In regard to the self-serving report on human rights violations in Iran by the lackeys of world imperialism, there are things I would like to say. We have questions to ask of these lying report-writers. In view of the fact that you yourselves admit that you prepared this report without making a study inside Iran, on what basis and with what logic is this justifiable?

For people who have the slightest familiarity with international law, what you have done is mostly a joke, and your report is a mockery. We ask you, according to your logic, is the killing of thousands of people for the crime of being Muslim in Bosnia and Hercegovina a violation of human rights?

We ask, is the killing of at least 10,000 oppressed and starving people in Somalia by criminal America a violation of human rights? Is the killing of hundreds of people for the crime of having just one idea in the heart of America a violation of human rights? There are thousands of other questions to which you report writers certainly have no answer.

He discussed the Second Five-Year Plan and the 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995] Budget Bill. He said: I expect my dear friends in the Majles to take an overall view instead of a regional view in studying the Second Five-Year Plan and the Budget Bill. The requirements we set for those in charge of enforcing the laws, whether in the budget or in the Second Five-Year Plan, must be so reasonable that if they are not enforced we will have no justification of any kind for condescending, chalking it up to doing too little, or excusing them. We must pay careful attention to revenues.

Addressing the nation's executive organizations, he noted: To pave the way out of the current economic situation, I emphasize the need to eliminate unnecessary waste. I emphasize to these dear ones that along with the reconstruction, along with production, we must put at the top of our programs protection and support for committed and specialist forces.

Kuhkan then said: Esteemed brothers and sisters: As long as we continue to regard spending money on education and training as an expense rather than as an investment, as long as we consider the high population of this family of several hundred thousand to be an obstacle to taking big steps to meet the material and spiritual needs of teachers, we cannot expect growth, development and progress in the country.

Countries have grown and developed which initially made enormous investments in education and training.

In conclusion, he discussed the president of the republic's emphasis last year on Zarrinshahr and Mobarakeh. He said: The region's factories must take on part of the burden for solving the many problems of the people, especially with regard to the one percent sales tax, which we will discuss in detail at the required time.

Legislation

The only item on the agenda at yesterday's open Majles session was continued consideration of the details of the urgent motion on the Procedures for Consideration of the Annual National Budget and the Five-Year Plans Proposed by the Government, whose articles were approved by the deputies.

10 - Article 114—No more than one week after approval, the Plan and Budget Commission will hold the first consultation on the formation of the first joint commission and the specialist commissions based on the announced timetable, and it will take steps to study proposals and take votes.

11 - Article 115—No more than one week after the final session of the joint commission, the Plan and Budget Commission will compile the measures approved by the joint commissions and submit the final report to the Majles.

Note—The final writing of the report is authorized subject to a final balancing of revenues and expenses and having the regulations conform to the Five-Year Plan Law (given in Article 113).

12 - Article 116—In the second consultation, the report from the Plan and Budget Commission will be presented in the Majles and new proposals will not be accepted. The printed proposals will be considered respectively with regard to Article 1 and its notes and rows.

The proposals will be presented from the specialist commissions and the deputies respectively, and the more comprehensive printed proposals designated by the Speaker's Council will be presented.

Note—The deputy recommendations, which were not approved in the specialist commissions, along with the

report from the specialist commissions to the Plan and Budget Commission, must be printed by the General Offices of Laws and distributed among the deputies along with the report from the second consultation of the Plan and Budget Commission.

13 - Article 117—During consideration of the proposals, those making the proposals, those opposed, those in favor, the expert from the Plan and Budget Commission and the government's representative will each have five minutes to speak.

15 - Article 118—During the presentations of the first and second consultations on the Budget Bill to the Majles, the sessions must run each day of the week for least six hours per day without interruption, with the exception of Friday and official holidays. They will not be taken off the agenda as long as the consultation and the proceedings have not been completed and the Majles vote has not been taken. No other bill or motion may be presented, with the exception of a bill for one or several twelfths of the budget as required.

Note 1—The Majles may also convene if necessary, on the recommendation of the speaker and with Majles approval, on Fridays and official holidays in order to study the Budget Bill.

Note 2—If urgent matters arise, whether bills, very urgent motions or other things whose delay the Majles determines will cause irreparable harm, a limited amount of time may be set aside for their presentation and approval.

Deletion of Paragraph 15—The note below is appended to Article 35 as Note 4 and the current Note 4 is changed to Note 5:

"After this law is approved, the members of the Plan and Budget Commission, who will be 15 in number, will be elected from among volunteers by the deputies in a secret ballot at the beginning of each Majles term."

At this session arrival was announced of the question from Engineer Morteza Nabavi, addressed jointly to the minister of heavy industries and the minister of economic and financial affairs, pertaining to:

1. What is the list of credits opened for this year's imports and purchases, especially for manufactured vehicles?

2. In view of the foreign exchange problems and difficulties, why were credits opened for vehicles manufactured far away and similar items, and for some luxury goods?

Also received was the question from Seyyed Mostafa Seyyed Hashemi to the minister of health care and treatment concerning the reason for delay in the completion of the 50-bed hospital in 'Ajabshir.

Deputy Condolences to Leader on Death of Ayatollah al-'Ozma Golpayeganli

In a letter 171 Majles deputies offered condolences to the learned theologian, the exalted leader of the revolution, on the death of the divine scholar and source of emulation for the Shi'ites of the world, Ayatollah al-'Ozma Golpayeganii.

The text of the letter is as follows: [passages omitted on condolences for Golpayeganii]

Majles Commissions Weekly Agenda

The most important items on the agenda this week are as follows:

Islamic Guidance and Art and Mass Media Commission

Study of the motion to prohibit continued education for the nation's agents during office hours.

Administrative and Employment Affairs Commission

Study of the Bill To Establish the Province of Qazvin

Industries and Mines Commission

Question from Mr. Niknam to the minister of mines and metals concerning the contract with the B.A.Ch.P.M. Company.

Report from the minister of economic affairs and the chief of the Iran Foreign Investments Organization concerning attracting foreign investments to Iran.

Visit to the Long-Distance Switching Communications Center (LCT).

Housing, Urban Construction and Roads and Transportation Commission

Commission members visit traffic control systems and centers.

Commission on National Councils and Domestic Affairs

Study of the first consultation on the Proposed Law To Prohibit the Operation of Motorcycles Without Traffic Control and Driving Numbers.

Health Care and Welfare Commission

Study of the question from Mr. Seyyed Hashemi to the minister of health.

Enactments by Majles Commissions

The measures enacted by the Majles commissions this week are as follows:

Motion on Procedures for Punishing Individuals Who Engage in Unauthorized Activities in Audiovisual Affairs

Article 2 of this motion states: Any kind of commercial activity in the production, distribution, reproduction, or marketing of audio or video tapes requires authorization from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. Violators will be subject to a cash penalty from 1 to 10 million rials.

The above motion was approved by the Legal and Judicial Affairs Commission.

Bill on the Cultural and Scientific Agreement Between Azerbaijan and the Islamic Republic of Iran

Based on Article 1 of this bill, the two parties will try to use every means to expand cultural relations between the two countries based on mutual laws and respect for one another's domestic regulations, and to make the people in their countries aware of the other side's culture and civilization.

This bill was approved in the Islamic Guidance and Art Commission, the Education and Training Commission, the Foreign Policy Commission and the Culture and Higher Education Commission.